ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE DATE OF ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT: The House will elect two members each to the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee for 1119, and four members to the R. W. D. Advisory Committee that is to be constituted afresh. The elections will take place on Thursday, the 5th August 1943. They will be held as usual after the business of the House for the day is over, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy-President or one of the panel of chairmen. The ordinary system of voting by ballot will be adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5460 under Demand V—Registration. As is given in the list of Demands for Supplementary Grants, a sum of Rs. 4,000 is intended for the purchase of articles of furniture for new clerks, about 250 in number, appointed in the Sub-Registry offices. The remaining sum of Rs. 1,460 is intended for travelling allowance to the members of the Chitties Act Committee and the Committee for the licensing of document writers. The report of the latter Committee has already been submitted to Government and the former will be submitted in a few days. I beg to request the House to grant the sum.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—MEDICAL.

DR. S. JOHN: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 30,223 under Demand XXIV—Medical. This is intended for the purchase of 1,150 lbs. of quinine from the Madras Government. The payment is so urgent that it is not possible to postpone it. I request therefore the House will allow this supplementary grant.

MR. M. BHASKARAN NAIR (*Neyyattinkara cum Trivandrum*): In supporting this demand, I wish to know whether sufficient quantities of quinine will be supplied in the malarial areas.

PRESIDENT: We are very hard put to in getting quinine. We are pressing the Government of India to supply us quinine. In answer to our request for 3,000 lbs. we were offered 136 lbs. During my recent visit to Delhi I took the matter rather strongly with the Government of India and the Director-General of the Medical Services is coming here to see the situation himself. In the meanwhile we have got 1,150 lbs. from the Government of Madras, so that we are only 2,000 lbs. short.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, may I have an idea of the price of quinine at present?

PRESIDENT: Is it necessary for the honourable member to know the price? The price in the open market is terrible. I would rather not give the price, but I can assure the honourable member that the Government will supply at the purchase price without making any profit at all.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: I do not want to know the exact price. May I know at least the approximate price?

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PRESIDENT: I am sorry, no.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXVII—DEBT HEADS—COINAGE ACCOUNT.

MR. A. LEKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 3,04,000 under Mint advances. This is intended for meeting the additional expenditure for the purchase of bullion required for minting about ten lakhs of small silver coins in order to remove the present shortage of small change. I request the House to sanction the grant.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE AUDIT REPORT AND APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS OF 1116 M. E.

MR. A. LEKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts of 1116 M. E.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee that has been presented to us for consideration. Unlike the Standing Finance Committee or any other committees constituted by Government for different purposes, this is the statutory body constituted under Rule 79 of the Travancore Legislative Rules for the purpose of dealing with the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts of Government. Under these circumstances, it would be in the fitness of things if the Public Accounts Committee, which has the special privilege of having the Dewan as its Chairman is afforded sufficient opportunity to discharge its functions satisfactorily. Of late, it has almost become the practice to fix up the date of the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee in such a way as not to give sufficient convenience or time to the non-official members of the committee to study properly the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts and be ready for a discussion. By the very nature of this document, it is difficult for a lay-man to understand it. On more occasions than one I have complained against this attitude of the authorities concerned. But Sir, I am constrained to observe that deserving attention has not yet been given to this aspect of the matter. It is really regrettable to note that the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee appointed for considering the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts of 1117 M. E. was proposed to be held on the 5th Karkatakam, a day which was set apart for studying the voluminious budget for the next year. It would appear that the business of the Public Accounts Committee is being treated as an unimportant matter of ordinary routine. Sir, you are the custodian of the privileges of both the Houses of Legislature and I would therefore appeal to you to see that such things are not repeated at least in future.

PRESIDENT: I can fully understand the view of the honourable member. I wish to know whether he is making any motion to have this discussion adjourned till after the budget debate.

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